



Telephone 519-693-4812

Fax 519-693-7055

Email: info@quadcounty.ca

Website: <https://quadcounty.ca>

195 Wellington St., Wardsville, Ontario N0L 2N0

May 15, 2023

Municipality of West Elgin
22413 Hoskins Line
Rodney, Ontario
N0L 2C0

Dear Acting Mayor Leatham and Members of Council

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Linda Long and I am the Executive Director for Quad County Support Services. Our organization supports adults with developmental disabilities in the municipalities of Southwest Middlesex, West Elgin, Dutton and the Eastern portions of Lambton and Kent Counties. This year, Quad County is celebrating 60 years of supporting individuals with developmental disabilities to live their best lives in community. Our vision is to provide authentic and meaningful participation in community for all, where every person belongs and is valued, respected and treated with dignity.

We will be celebrating this milestone with an Open House on June 11, 2023 at the Glencoe Agricultural Hall, 268 Cunie St. Glencoe. The event will run from 2-4 pm. Please find the formal invitation accompanying my letter. I have also enclosed our most recent newsletter for your viewing pleasure. We would love to have all members of council join us to get better acquainted and take a stroll down memory lane.

Most Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Linda Long'.

Linda Long
Executive Director
Quad County Support Services
www.quadcounty.ca



Share your pictures
from the last
60 years!

Email them to
info@quadcounty.ca

We want to hear from you!

Have ideas for a community program or questions about services and supports we provide? There are lots of ways to connect.



info@quadcounty.ca



FACEBOOK PAGE:

Quad County
Support Services



WEBSITE:

quadcounty.ca



EVENTS:

quadcounty.ca/events

Save the date...

Join

Quad County Support Services
as we celebrate 60 years
of growing community.



Sunday, June 11
2 to 4 pm

Glencoe Agricultural Hall

We invite family and friends who want to take a stroll down memory lane and see familiar faces to join us for an afternoon of fun.

Come celebrate with friends!

Celebrating 60 years of service

It's hard to believe I've been with Quad County Support Services for more than half of its history. I started as a summer student in 1986.

This year we're celebrating our 60th anniversary of growing community and supporting people with developmental disabilities. While a lot has changed over the years, one thing that stays the same is the commitment to individuals and their families in providing supports to help people live their best lives.

We have a 60th anniversary committee that is hard at work planning for our big June 11 celebration. Thank you for your time and we can't wait to get together to mark the anniversary in person.

We're also finding ways to celebrate our milestone throughout the year. Members have been looking at pictures and memorabilia. You may have seen some of our blast from the past photos on Facebook. I've enjoyed reading the comments and memories people are sharing.

This spring has been a busy time. On March 21 we marked World Down Syndrome Day with Rock Your Socks event. We were overwhelmed

with the amount of community support with businesses, schools and individuals decorating their spaces and wearing their awesome socks.

In April we're celebrating Autism Acceptance Month. We're wanting to move from awareness to acceptance of the unique gifts autistic individuals bring. Recent estimates are that 1 in 37 (even 1 in 30) children have autism.

As we move through spring, May is Community Living Month. Plans are underway to light Glencoe, and other communities, green and blue, the colours of Community Living. Watch for more updates on our Facebook page.

There's definitely a theme of celebration in the air this spring!

We look forward to celebrating our 60th anniversary with you this year.

Linda Long, Executive Director



Supporting individual interests

It's with great excitement that we announce the creation of a new Community Activator position. Aya MacDonald has been hired to take on this role.

Aya is passionate about helping people grow and glow. Prior to joining our team, she worked as a learning and development specialist. Her job was to focus on people's strengths and create plans to help them achieve their full potential.

Originally from Japan, Aya has also lived in New Zealand and Canada. She loves being in nature, riding bicycles and playing board games. Aya speaks English, Japanese and is learning Ojibwe.

As our Community Activator, she is looking forward to connecting with each individual and their family to create a person-directed plan that is based on the unique needs and interests of the individual. This is a key strategic pillar for our organization - ensuring individuals have a leading role in developing their plans instead of plans being developed for them.

These plans will help guide staff to ensure activities and goal setting is done based on the individual's interests. Aya will monitor the plans to ensure they are continually reviewed and updated, reflecting the current interests of individuals.



Spotlight:

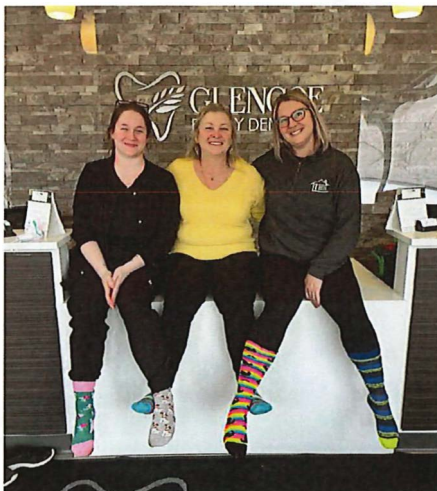
Find more pictures on our Facebook page and follow us to be part of the Quad County community!

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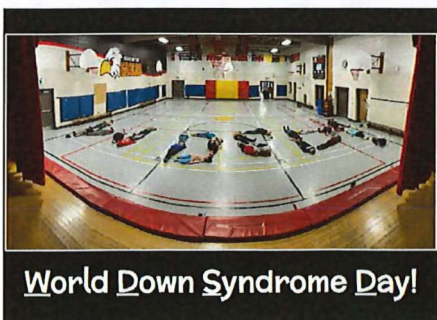
FACEBOOK PAGE:

Quad County Support Services

*We're regularly posting on Facebook photos!
We encourage you to follow, comment and help
grow our Facebook 'Quad Community'.*



ROCK YOUR SOCKS
IT'S WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY



World Down Syndrome Day!



Each month, individuals we support and our staff visit the 27 businesses that have donation cans on their counters.

They then give the cans to the committee who donates the money to local organizations.

Thank you to everyone who donates and to the dedicated volunteers who collect these cans, rain or shine.

The funds are distributed to the following organizations:

January- Ministerial Benevolence Fund

February- Glencoe Food Bank

March - Re:Generation Centre

April - Quad County Support Services

May- Sundays at the Station

June-SWM Canada Day Celebrations

July- ELM Children's Centre

August - Women's Rural Resource Centre

September - St.Vincent de Paul

October- Glencoe Agricultural Society

November - FCHS Foundation

December - Community Christmas Dinner

If you're interested in hosting a can, email d.hoover@quadcounty.ca.

Work continues on the strategic pillars that we refined back in December. Under the long-term sustainability pillar, we've been working on implementing inclusive systems.

In the coming weeks, we'll be launching a web-based payroll system that will make our financing more efficient, saving staff time.

We'll be rolling out more updates to staff in the coming weeks.

